

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1037
By McLeary

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Willie Mae Cox Wilson
on being inducted into the Tennessee Teachers
Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to
specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the
highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Willie Mae Cox Wilson is one such estimable educator, who has
distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2004, Mrs. Wilson will be inducted into the Tennessee Teachers
Hall of Fame, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the
positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, born in Martin, Tennessee, on April 19, 1909, Willie Mae Cox Wilson
received her early childhood education in the Martin City School System, attended Hall Moody
Institute, which later became the University of Tennessee at Martin, and Abilene Christian
College, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from George Peabody College for Teachers;
and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Wilson began her 42-year teaching career in Palmersville, Tennessee,
and later taught at Sharon, Martin, and Lexington High Schools; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, she taught Speech, English, French, and Algebra,
coached girls' basketball, and served on numerous high school evaluation committees; and

WHEREAS, in 1951, Mrs. Wilson, along with three other high school teachers from
seven states, won a Lion Oil Scholarship Fund essay contest with her essay, "How I Can Help
Improve Education in the South"; and

WHEREAS, reluctant to end her teaching career after retiring from Lexington High School, Willie Mae Cox Wilson then taught a Ladies' Bible Class for 20 years and tutored numerous older students, many of whom were World War II veterans preparing for their GED examinations; and

WHEREAS, former students of Mrs. Wilson have shown their appreciation for her accomplished teaching skills and mentorship by contributions in her honor to the Weldon Public Library in Martin and the Roundtable of Peabody at Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Wilson is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who worked assiduously during her career to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Willie Mae Cox Wilson truly serves as an inspiration to the entire educational community of Tennessee, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Wilson epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Willie Mae Cox Wilson on being inducted into the Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame, commend her for her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.